

~~SECRET~~

26 May 1987

SUBJECT: Talking Points for Morris Busby to Use with SecState

-- A U.S. reporter who was with FDN forces during the fighting at San Andres de Bocay essentially confirms resistance accounts of the action, according to U.S. Embassy reporting. The reporter -- who we believe is an ex-U.S. Army officer and West Point graduate -- extolled the valor of the FDN troops, their high morale and the quality of their leadership. He indicated that the resistance is harassing the Sandinistas and is not concerned with holding territory. The reporter also noted that, during the battle, Sandinista helicopters kept their distance, probably in reaction to the shootdown of the MI-17 by an FDN Redeye missile.

-- During the Bocay fighting, the FDN remained busy elsewhere inside Nicaragua. A culvert on the Rama Road near Muelle de Los Bueyes was blown up on 12 May, resulting in the disruption of all vehicle traffic. On 14 May, the FDN blew up a bridge in Matagalpa Department.

-- According to a report from the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa, the FDN unit that killed U.S. citizen Benjamin Linder was debriefed on 20 May at its base camp along the Nicaraguan-Honduran border. The combatants claim that Linder was armed and in uniform when killed, and they thought he was Cuban. The combatants took some documents off Linder's body which the embassy hopes to obtain.

-- [redacted] Nicaraguan air defense units have special equipment for night operations. [redacted] some SA-7 units have infrared sights for their missiles. This could permit Sandinista antiaircraft units to better track and fire at resistance resupply aircraft, virtually all of which drop at night.

-- During the reporting period, nine air missions were flown, delivering 39,978 pounds of cargo to resistance forces. Cumulative totals thus far are 107 missions, delivering 554,779 pounds of cargo.

-- Forty-five additional students graduated from training [redacted] on 22 May. Fifteen students completed the Mobile Training Team (MTT) course [redacted] and thirty completed the Combat Medical Technical (CMT) course.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

-- Another order of 50 Redeye missiles has been placed with the Army. This latest order brings to 150 the number of Redeyes which will support the air defense efforts of the resistance.

-- There are five resupply flights scheduled for the weeks of 26 May through 5 June. These flights will carry demolitions, T-3 quartermaster ordnance and general cargo.